

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 through 33 remain pending in this application. Claims 1 through 4, and 26 through 33 have been canceled. In addition, claims 10 and 18 have been amended.

Claims 1 through 9, and 26 through 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0191575 (published Dec. 19, 2002) to Kalavade et al. [hereinafter “*Kalavade*”].

The Examiner has acknowledged that claims 10 through 25 are directed to allowable subject matter. However, claims 10-25 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in dependent form.

Claim 10 has been amended to be in independent form and to include all limitations of now canceled claims 1 and 9, from which original claim 10 depended. Claims 11 through 17 remain original but now depend from, and include all limitations of, independent claim 10 as amended.

Likewise claim 18 has been amended to be in independent form and to include all limitations of canceled claim 1, from which original claim 18 depended. Claims 19 through 25 remain original but now depend from, and include all limitations of independent claim 18 as amended.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections to claims 10 through 25 in light of the indicated amendments to claims 10 and 18.

CONCLUSION

No amendment made was related to the statutory requirements of patentability unless expressly stated herein. Also, no amendment made was for the purpose of narrowing the scope of any claim, unless Applicant(s) has/have argued herein that such amendment was made to distinguish over a particular reference or combination of references.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to deduct any additional fees arising as a result of this response, including any fees for Extensions of Time, or any other communication from or to credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-2117.

It is submitted that the claims clearly define the invention, are supported by the specification and drawings, and are in a condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. Should the Examiner have any questions or concerns that may expedite prosecution of the present application, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,
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